The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Idiots talk of agitators; there is but one, injustice.—Sir Charles Napier.

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WHOLE NO. 1298 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1936 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 26, NO. 9

EDITORIALS

FOOLISH INDUSTRIAL DICTATORSIHP

The folly of a management policy which imposes an arbitrary industrial dictatorship on employes is pointedly illustrated in the events leading up to the strike involving around 14,000 workers employed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio.

The living which working men and women buy with the wages they are paid for the use of their labor power depends on the length of the time they are employed. Steady employment means steady purchasing power and the ability to keep the stream of necessaries which make up a living flowing with a certain degree of regularity. Intermittent employment disrupts this regularity and requires readjustment of budgets. It is only fair, therefore, when management concludes it is necessary to impose layoffs that the workers should be given adequate notice to this effect.

In the Goodyear plant a large number of tire makers resented layoffs without warning and insisted that they be preceded with a two or three days' notice. A sit-down strike emphasized their animosity against this practice.

Without going into details, the factory-wide strike which brought thousands of other workers into its area, with mass picketing, injunctions, and all the other elements that usually accompany the belligerent refusal of employers to deal fairly with their employes, grew out of this absolutely silly policy of refusing to give the workers adequate notice regarding impending layoffs.

The United States Congress in the Social Security Act passed last year makes generous provision to assist the States in caring for unfortunates who have lost their physical eyesight. Evidently many industrial managers require some sort of assistance to correct their spiritual myopia when it is a question of establishing personnel policies based on justice.

AAA FOOD PRICE BOOSTS

The propagandists of big business who opposed the Agricultural Adjustment Act with voluminous charges that it was responsible for higher prices of food products predicted big slashes in food prices following the action of the Supreme Court in holding the measure unconstitutional.

But according to the Consumers' Guide, issued by the Consumers Counsel of the AAA, merchants are charging more for most groceries now, with the processing taxes scrapped, than they were a year ago when the AAA was in full operation.

Because of its relative cheapness compared with other cuts, chuck roast is the favorite with the average housewife, who is compelled to adjust her budget to a moderate or less than moderate income; the merchants now demand 24.6 cents a pound for it, an increase of 9.1 cents a pound compared with the price they exacted a year ago. Smoked hams now cost 33.2 cents a pound, an increase of 8.5 cents during the year. Round steak costs 2.7 cents more a pound than a year ago; rib roast, 4 cents more, and pork chops, 2.4 cents more. Breast of lamb has been advanced 2.8 cents a pound during the year and leg of lamb, 0.6 cents.

Although the price of flour is off an infinitesimal 0.2 cents a pound compared with the price last month, the price of bread has been advanced to a higher figure than that which obtained a year ago, the Guide says.

Evidently the high price of food products attributed to the Agricultural Adjustment Act was just another deluge of propaganda shot out by big business to mobilize public opinion against the measure through widespread publicity unwarranted by facts.

SHORTWEIGHT RACKETEERS

Shortweighting is one of the most indecent devices used by manufacturers and merchants to increase the cost of living for the masses.

In Philadelphia the practice of dealers charging full prices for shortweight coal, especially when sold to low-income groups, recently became so general that dozens of them were haled into court by municipal authorities and penalized with heavy fines.

One of the common methods of shortweighting is to change the size of the standard package. Bakers frequently decrease the weight of the loaf of bread and thus increase its real price although the regular price remains the same. The food industries, including the meat packers, have also applied this practice of mulcting consumers.

New York City has started a movement designed to put an end to this cheating scheme so far as packaged bacon is concerned. The Commissioner of Markets laid down the law to the representatives of the large packers with the result that all bacon packaged for sale in the Nation's metropolis shall weigh a full half-pound, instead of the six-ounce packages which the packers by propaganda and practice have imposed on the public as the standard size..

In the interest of justice for the consumers, a large portion of whom are working men and women paid relatively low wages, it would be a good plan for them generally to insist on full-weight units of groceries and other products whether packaged or unpackaged.

PREPAREDNESS AND HOUSING

The annual appropriation bill for the War Department passed by the House of Representatives reaches the stupendous sum of $449,837,029.

Housing authorities estimate that a comfortable house for the low-income group will cost around $5,000. The appropriation for the War Department would construct 111,807 such houses. Assuming an average of four persons per family, these houses would provide homes for 447,228 persons.

It will not be out of place to remember these figures when the House of Representatives takes up the question of appropriations to inaugurate a Federal housing program.

Surely the American Government cannot object to spending as much or more from public funds to remedy the housing shortage as it allocates to the War Department in order to prepare the country to meet a possible attack from foreign governments.

UNWISE TAXATION FOR RELIEF

The committee on relief for the destitute aged and unemployed appointed by Governor Nice of Maryland has recommended the enactment of a 1 per cent consumers' sales tax as the major source of revenue for this purpose during the coming year.

Of course the consumers' sales tax is utterly unwarranted either for relief or any other object. It is a tax that bears most heavily on the poor, who are least able to pay it, and least heavily on the well-to-do and the rich, who have abundant resources hardly touched as yet for necessary governmental expenses.

Although the sales tax is inherently inequitable as a general proposition, it is especially out of place when used to raise funds to relieve the destitute aged or jobless. Relief is a social responsibility which should be met by regular tax procedure. The amount paid for relief should not be contingent on or determined by special or extra levies on either persons or property, but on the needs of those requiring public assistance. The payments should be made out of the general funds collected from all taxable sources.

COMPANY UNION IS FARCE FOR REAL SILK EMPLOYES

Indianapolis, Ind. (AFLNS).—Employes of the Real Silk Hosiery Company here who are connected with the Workers' Cooperative Union, which is the company union at the plant, are discouraged over the failure of the so-called "union" to protect them in their legitimate rights.

Unemployed workers in the lingerie department are learning that the management farms out the best work to the Franklin plant, where cheaper wages are paid.

It is also reported that girls employed in the seaming department, who sew elastic for the knee-high stockings, have likewise had wage reductions imposed upon them with the company union powerless to prevent the injustice.

In a recent statement to the company employes the American Federation of Hosiery Workers' Union pointed out the subversive methods used to promote the company union.

"It has been proved time and time again," the statement said, "that the Workers' Cooperative Union is only a tool of management.

"Their recent decision in electing the president themselves from the board of directors should be enough proof that this is a company union between the Real Silk management and the board of directors of the Workers' Cooperative Union.

"These men receive straight salary and are continually soliciting membership.

"Walter Roth, one of the directors, who happens to be a fixer in the seaming department, carries application blanks in his pocket, and when he goes to fix a seamer's machine he is more interested in signing up in the Workers' Cooperative Union than anything else.

"We wonder what would be the company's attitude if a fixer or a departmental director were to take application blanks for membership in the American Federation of Hosiery Workers."

The Hosiery Workers urged the employes to enroll in the Hosiery Workers' Union and exercise their rights as American citizens, under the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act, to become a part of the bona fide labor movement.

FIVE INJUNCTION CASES ARE WON BY LABOR BOARD

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The National Labor Relations Board announced that within a few days its proceedings under the Wagner-Connery Labor Disputes Act had been sustained by Federal District Judges in five cases where temporary injunctions were sought by employers to prevent such administrative proceedings.

Federal Judge Wayne G. Borah, Eastern District of Louisiana, denied a temporary injunction asked by the Bradley Lumber Company of Warren, Arkansas, to prevent the Board from inquiring into the facts of alleged unfair labor practices charged by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union.

In Detroit, Federal District Judge Edward J. Moinet, Eastern District of Michigan, denied four injunctions restraining the Board from inquiring into the alleged violations of the Wagner Act by the Chrysler Corporation, the General Motors Truck Corporation, the Yellow Truck Coach Manufacturing Company, and the Labor Board of the General Motors Truck Corporation, the latter being an organization of General Motors' employes.

In each of these four suits temporary injunctions were denied on the ground that there was no showing of irreparable injury sufficient to show cause for a court of equity to interfere with the administrative proceedings of the Labor Relations Board.

National Campaign to Fight Silicosis Opened by Secretary of Labor Perkins

2,000,000 Workers Employed in Industries Having Dread Lung Disease Hazards.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins announced that she would soon call a national conference of representatives of industry, labor and Federal and State health labor commissions and safety experts and engineers to map plans for a cooperative campaign to prevent silicosis. Approximately 2,000,000 workers in the United States are engaged in industries which have a silicosis hazard and more than 500,000 of them are exposed to an amount of dosage which is harmful in some degree.

Her decision to hold a conference on greater safety for workers followed a meeting, over which she presided here attended by representatives of industries, workers and organizations interested in lessening the hazard.

Serious Industrial Disease

"The elements in approaching the problem of occupational disease prevention are in general quite the same as in accident prevention in that they embody engineering solution and methods of education of the responsible agencies, although in the case of occupational diseases the element of engineering—technical investigation and design of remedial measures—plays a relatively greater part than in accident prevention," Secretary Perkins told the gathering, adding:

"Out of the coming conference I am hopeful there will come plans for concerted action against this serious industrial disease. Prevention is the first thought and first responsibility. Adjunct to it some way must be found of bringing the benefits of a workmen's compensation coverage to those disabled by the exposure in or arising out of their work that will afford reasonable benefits without imposing too great a burden upon production."

The American Federation of Labor was represented at the conference by Secretary-Treasurer Frank Morrison, Legislative Representative S. P. Meadows and John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department.

The United Mine Workers of America was represented by Secretary-Treasurer Thomas Kennedy, and the Glass Bottle Blowers Association of the United States and Canada by President James Maloney. The Granite Cutters International Association of America was represented by William C. O'Neill.

Organizations Represented at Conference

Following is a complete list of the organizations which participated in the conference:

Air Hygiene Foundation of America, Inc.; American Association of Industrial Physicians; American Federation of Labor; American Foundrymen's Association; American Granite Association; American Iron and Steel Institute; American Mining Congress; American Mutual Alliance; American Refractories Institute; American Standards Association; Annual Conference of State and Territorial Health Officers.

Anthracite Coal Operators Association; Associated General Contractors of America; Associated Glass and Pottery Manufacturers; Granite Cutters International Association of America; Grinding Wheel Manufacturers Association; International Association of Governmental Labor Officials; International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions; Manufacturing Chemists Association; National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters.

National Safety Council; National Sand and Gravel Association; Portland Cement Association; United Mine Workers of America; U. S. Bureau of Mines; U. S. Public Health Service; Anthracite Institute; Pennsylvania Self-Insurers Association; Association of Casualty and Surety Executives.

Many State, County and City Workers Request Charters From Gov't. Employees' Federation

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—President Green of the American Federation of Labor announces that the American Federation of Government Employes has received applications for charters from a dozen different groups of employes in the State, county and municipal fields.

Among the employes of the United States Government there are now 240 local unions with new charters being issued continuously, and it is expected there will be an equal number of locals soon organized among the other public agencies.

President Babcock of the A. F. G. E. stated that he is anxious to hear from active men and women in every State who are employed by the States, counties or municipalities. It is felt that this offers an unusual opportunity for a great service in organizing these new groups. This will advance the cause of labor and bring about a betterment in the conditions of such employment.

Questions can be addressed to the American Federation of Government Employes, 900 F Street, Washington, D. C.

$900,000,000 TAX BOOST CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—A considerable increase in Federal taxes during this session of Congress is regarded as probable by well-informed sources here.

Two recent developments seem to make the increase necessary. The new farm relief bill calls for around $500,000,000. In addition to the subsidy for the farmers, the continued refusal of private employers to put any appreciable number of the jobless to work keeps over 3,500,000 of the unemployed on Federal work relief payrolls with the inevitableness of the Government's finding it necessary to continue their employment after July 1 when the present $4,000,000,000 relief fund will be exhausted. This means many more millions of dollars to keep the jobless at work on Federal projects.

The tax emergency brings up the old problem as to whether the increased burden shall be borne by those who are able to bear it without decreasing normal living standards, or by those in the lower income group, or by both groups. Conservatives want to protect the rich from more taxation and saddle the increased Government expenditures on the people of moderate means. The liberals, or some of them, want to bring both groups into the heavier taxation area.

Senator La Follette has a plan to increase tax levies on the wealthy and also impose taxes on several million smaller incomes now exempt. He would raise the normal tax rate from 4 to 6 per cent and start the surtax on incomes of $3,000. In addition he would lower the exemption for married couples from $2,500 to $2,000 and for single individuals from $1,000 to $800. This change in exemptions would increase taxes on a large number of persons with small incomes.

ST. LOUIS NEEDY FACE DRASTIC CUT IN RELIEF

Special Session of Legislature Urged To Provide Additional State Aid

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The heartrending condition which State and municipal authorities impose upon thousands of men, women and children thrown into destitution by the prolonged depression is revealed in the urgent request to Governor Park of Missouri by the St. Louis Permanent Council on Relief Needs that he call a special session of the Legislature to appropriate additional State funds for relief. Charles Blome, president of the Molders' Union, is president of the council, which is composed of 28 organizations.

In a letter to Governor Park the council pointed out that after April 1 the only funds for those on relief in St. Louis will be $147,00 a month, which is the city's contribution to the care of the unemployed. "This amount," the council said, "is a little more than one-third of the totally inadequate funds which are now available."

"It is appalling to consider," the council declared, "that unless added funds are forthcoming the present pitiful relief allotments will be reduced by two-thirds, or to an average of $7 to $8 a family a month, thus substituting actual starvation for the present suffering. This, you will agree, cannot and must not happen."

The letter charged that the present relief allotments, which average $22 a month for each family, are "considerably below the minimum standard of decency," and claimed that thousands of families in which the wage earner is employed on WPA projects at wages of $55 a month are in need of supplemental relief, now denied to families with less than six members.

WILLIAMS DEFENDS WPA PLAN OF CREATING WORK FOR IDLE

Deputy Administrator Says States Must Assist—Hits Rich for Opposing Program.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Aubrey Williams, Deputy WPA Administrator, vigorously defended the WPA plan of providing work for around 3,500,000 jobless in an address before the conference of the American Association of Social Workers here.

"There are those," he said, "who feel that the time has come for the Federal Government to retreat from its present openly accepted responsibility to share with the States the burden and obligation of providing for persons in distress, to deny that it owes any responsibility to the unemployed, and to turn them back to the limitations of local resources and the mercies of private generosity.

"To my mind, this position more accurately reflects a condern on the part of a handful of rich and powerful men for their prerogatives and pocketbooks than a sincere interest in the maintenance of State and local rights."

Mr. Williams added that he, was opposed to the policy applied by the Federal Government for two and one-half years of relieving States and localities of all responsibility for their own unemployed people, adding: "If we are ever ta make adequate provision for need, whether it grows out of normal or abnormal situations, the responsibility must be shared by the Federal, State and local governments."

In reply to the criticism that the Works Progress Administration plan does not meet the entire need of the unemployment situation, Mr. Williams said:

"The work program is providing jobs at the present time for something over 3,500,000 people, the maximum number of jobs made possible by present funds.

"For these people it is providing more decently and adequately than ever before. I do not think it entirely unreasonable that the States and localities should make provision for those who require relief, particularly in view of the provision of the Social Security Act for Federal aid in certain types of categorical assistance."

JACKSON FEDERATION CARRIES ON FOR LABOR

Jackson, Mich. (AFLNS).—Jackson labor, rallying under the banner of the Jackson Federation of Labor, is carrying the fight for organization of workers and a square deal for all wage earners to all sections of this community, with active participation of all local unions. Reports indicate substantial progress is being made.

Army Officer's Monthly Pay Cut by $150 by Court Martial

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Col. Joseph I. McMullen of the United States Army was convicted by a court-martial here of acting "wrongfully, dishonestly and to the discredit of the military service."

The punishment was administered for the acceptance in 1934 of two round-trip railroad tickets to San Francisco, valued at $370, as a gift from Joseph Silverman, Jr., army goods trader, when Silverman had contracts pending before the War Department.

He was sentenced to be reduced in rank to the foot of the list of officers of his grade and to have his pay cut $150 per month for 24 months.

Colonel McMullen's regular pay and allowances total $650 per month, so that for the next two years he will receive only $400 a month from the Government.

Anthracite Miners Ask New Contract

30-Hour Week and Wage Increases Among Demands Presented to Operators.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—Officials of the United Mine Workers of America, headed by President John L. Lewis, began negotiations with a committee of Pennsylvania coal operators here for a new agreement to take the place of the one which expires on March 31.

The six-hour day and five-day week, substantial wage increases and a check-off system similar to the one prevailing in the bituminous coal industry, where the operators collect union dues from pay envelopes, were included in a mass of demands presented by the union officials.

The shorter work week is demanded in order to provide employment for around 40,000 unemployed anthracite miners. It was said the number at work is approximately 100,000.

The union also demands an arrangement for qualified seniority to protect the rights of employes and prevent discrimination in their dismissal on account of old age, time and a half for overtime and double time for Sunday and holiday work, abolition of physical examinations in the rehiring of employes, safeguarding regulations with regard to the indiscriminate operation of strippings or strip mining, a uniform rock work scale and the elimination of contractors in this type of work.

Other demands include the adoption of measures to prevent replacement of employes by monthly men or bosses during idle periods so that such employes entitled to continuous employment shall not have this right abridged, and the elimination of charges upon men for safety appliances.

The union also insists that all workers in the industry and its related processes shall be under the terms of the general agreement, which is to be for two years, and that where supplemental agreements have been made lowering former standards they are to be abolished and former practices and standards restored.

Other demands are that employes idle through no fault of their own shall be permitted to function as members of local mine committees and that the practice of operators leasing coal lands for individual operation and of contracting for ordinary colliery work shall be abolished as essential to the protection of standard work agreements in the hard coal field.

PUBLIC EMPLOYES ORGANIZE IN DAYTON

Workers Employed by City of Dayton, Montgomery County and Local Federal Employes Form Lodge in AFGE.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Dayton, Ohio.—Employes of the city of Dayton, Montgomery County and Federal workers located in Dayton have formed a local lodge of the American Federation of Government Employes, recently given jurisdiction over city and county employes by the American Federation of Labor. City firemen have been organized here for many years, also being affiliated with the A. F. of L. through the Firefighters' Union.

Clem Evans, of the city Sewer Department, has been named as president of the new lodge, which will also affiliate imediately with the Dayton Central Labor Union. Frank Pusey, business representative of the local Engineers' Union, assisted materially in the organization.

Labor leaders hope the campaign will bring into the ranks of organized labor all city, county and Federal employes here who have not already become members.

SOCIAL WORKERS SAY STATES REQUIRE FEDERAL RELIEF AID

$200,000,000 U. S. Funds Held Necessary to Supplement WPA Program.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—Delegates from 25 States to the conference of the American Association of Social Workers here held that the unemployment crisis demands the resumption and continuation of Federal aid to the States to meet the relief needs not provided for in Works Progress Administration projects and other divisions of the relief program.

The consensus of opinion was that conditions throughout the country constitute a national emergency which is rapidly becoming tragic.

Delegates from every section cited evidence of increasing distress caused by the cutting off of Federal relief grants months in advance of the functioning of WPA projects. It was claimed this program left many helpless and uncared for in almost every community.

It was the conviction of the delegates that from $150,000,000 to $200,000,000 in Federal relief grants to the States will be needed during the current year for a "sound underpinning program necessary to the success of the work program."

Atlanta Unions Rap Low Wages On Federal Highway Projects

Atlanta, Ga. (AFLNS).—The Atlanta Federation of Trades adopted a resolution vigorously protesting against the low wage scales fixed by the Bureau of Public Roads of the Department of Agriculture for common and semi-skilled labor on Federal highway projects in Fulton and DeKalb counties.

According to the Federation, the Bureau of Roads scale for common labor on highway projects financed in whole or in part by the Federal Government is $32.50 per month, and the scale for intermediate and semi-skilled labor is $44.50 per month. Workers in these groups are not paid for lost time on account of weather conditions.

The wage scales, the Federation pointed out, are lower than the security wages paid by the Government on Works Progress Administration projects. The security wage for common labor in Fulton and DeKalb counties is $33 per month, and $49 per month for intermediate labor, with no deduction for time lost on account of bad weather.

The Federation requested Representative Ramspeck at Washington to have the wage scales established on a higher basis.

12,500,000 Persons Are Dependent On Federal Relief For Their Living

Four Million "Unemployables" Supported by State and Local Governments.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The appalling tragedy of want and helplessness resulting from the refusal of employers to reduce the length of the work week and provide jobs for the unemployed is poignantly revealed by current statistics of the Works Progress Administration showing that throughout the nation 12,500,000 persons are dependent on Federal work relief for a living and that 4,000,000 unemployable adults have to rely on State and local governments for the support of themselves and their dependents. This brings the number of persons who are compelled to look to government aid for their living up to 16,500,000.

These figures show a 20 per cent reduction from January, 1935, when the national relief rolls carried 20,500,000, the all-time highest figure at any point since the United States Government intervened to assist the jobless.

Under the $4,000,000,000 work relief program, the Federal Government is providing for 12,500,000 needy through employment for 3,797,770 out-of-works. Of these, 80 per cent are the heads of families, 10 per cent are single, and 10 per cent are non-relief cases. Each family head is estimated as having three dependents.

In addition to the 12,500,000 supported by the Federal Government there are at least 4,000,000 mentally ill, sick or aged "unemployables" who were thrown back on State and local funds by the Federal Government last December. These two groups—employed jobless on Federal projects and unemployed jobless living under the uncertain protection of States and localities, with their dependents—total 16,500,000.

Works Progress Administration officials estimate that if the Federal Government provided jobs for all of the unemployed, even at the unsatisfactory "subsistence" wage paid on WPA projects, it would cost between $8,000,000,000 and $9,000,000,000 per year instead of the $4,000,000,000 under the present program.

Of the 3,797,770 on the Federal relief payrolls, 2,988,396 are employed on WPA work, 477,745 in Civilian Conservation Camps, and 331,629 on projects sponsored by the Public Works Administration, the Rural Resettlement Administration and by other Federal agencies..

The Government's success in providing employment for over 3,500,000 jobless men and women within the last few months in socially useful work is a commendable achievement.

GREED FORCES FEDERAL OWERSHIP OF RAILROADS

Chairman Elgen of District of Columbia Utilities Commission Says Railway Executives Are Wrecking Private Ownership.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Riley E. Elgen, chairman of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission, in an article in the Atlantic Monthly on the railroad problem gives considerable support to the claim of the American Federation of Labor and the Association of Railroad Labor Executives that the failure of the American railroads under private initiative to meet the needs of the people makes public ownership imperatively necessary.

Declaring that it is practically impossible to avoid Government ownership of the railroads, Mr. Elgen places responsibility for this solution of the transportation problem squarely on the "unwillingness" of those who control the policy of the railroad industry "to submerge personal greed and selfishness."

He claims that "neither the Interstate Commerce Commission nor the private operators of railroads can establish a system of rates which would yield net earnings sufficient to permit the payment of reasonable securities of every railroad."

Mr. Elgen speaks with authority, having served for many years on the staff of the Interstate Commerce Commission before going to the Public Utilities Commission. Here is his indictment of all those who have power, actual or potential, to shape railroad policy:

"In the face of almost certain Government ownership, capital sits complacentently twiddling its thumbs. Neither those who hold the mortgages (bondholders) nor those who own the capital stock (ostensible owners) have any definite, tangible, workable plan to continue the roads under private ownership and operation.

Selfishness Dictates Policy

"Those who are charged with the duty of managing the railroads know full well the way to avoid Government ownership, yet personal interests are stronger than community interest.

"There is unanimity of opinion among them as to what is essential to ensure the continuation of private ownership and operation, but individual greed and selfishness outweigh other considerations.

"There are few among them who do not recognize the imminence of public ownership; yet none appears of sufficient influence and leadership to keep private ownership from being wrecked by its own proponents. Leadership in the railroad industry is indeed at low ebb.

"Only dictatorial powers administered by two-fisted men will avoid Government ownership, if at all."

Although firmly convinced that Government ownership is inevitable, Mr. Elgen is not so confident on Government operation. He suggests that after the Government acquires the roads it should make a contract with a corporation for their unified operation as a national system on a "profit-sharing plan."

APPLICATIONS FOR PENSIONS OVERWHELM TEXAS OFFICIALS

Austin, Texas (AFLNS).—The Texas Old-Age Assistance Commission completely underestimated the demand for old-age pensions under the recent law. At first the commission distributed 200,000 application forms to authorized agencies throughout the State. They were grabbed up so quickly that an additional 100,000 were ordered.

Pensions are payable to persons 65 years old who satisfy the requirements of the law. It was pointed out that many of the applications had to be returned because they were not made out with ink or on a typewriter. One applicant, giving the addresses of his six children, said three of them were in jail.

Jacksonville Longshoremen Determined Upon Organization

Jacksonville, Fla. (AFLNS).—It is announced by the International Longshoremen's Association's branch office here that local port workers are determined to organize effectively to improve their lot. It is said that longshoremen in organized Southern ports get 65 cents to 90 cents an hour, while the same firms pay local men as low as 25 cents and 35 cents an hour. Seventy-five per cent of the nation's ports are now organized, according to union officials. Local organization is progressing rapidly, and, through effective organization, it is believed the lot of the workers here can be materially improved without serious difficulty.

ILLINOIS LABOR PUSHES NEW COMPENSATION BILLS

Springfield, Ill. (AFLNS).—Largely through the efforts of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, supported by central bodies and local unions throughout the State, new state compensation bills have been prepared and presented to the third session of the Legislature, which are agreeable to both workers and employers. The Supreme Court threw out the original law about a year ago, the fight being led by insurance companies. The present bill is expected to be adopted, so that Illinois workers can have this needed protection.

UNION MAN NAMED AS LABOR LAW INSPECTOR

Detroit, Mich. (AFLNS).—It is believed a significant victory for organized labor was gained here with the appointment of Orville R. Patterson as inspector of laws for the Michigan Department of Labor and Industry. Patterson, a union man all of his working life, was president of the local Metal Polishers' Union when the appointment was made. Inadequate enforcement of labor laws has been freely charged in the labor press and among unionists and it is hoped that Patterson's appointment will have a salutary effect.

ATLANTIC COAST SEAMEN DEMAND INCREASED PAY

Parity With Rates of Pacific Coast Workers Is Sought

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—After six weeks of balloting on wage proposals to be included in their contract for another year, members of the International Seamen's Union of America employed by ship lines operating from Atlantic seaboard ports voted by a large majority to demand a new contract at a higher wage level.

Late in December the union asked for a flat increase of 20 per cent. Shipping operators countered with a proposition to renew the rates in the old contract. The union submitted the matter to a vote of the members, who turned down the proposal of the operators and instead of the 20 per cent increase demanded that the wages paid men doing the same work for lines operating from the Pacific Coast be made effective on the Atlantic Coast.

The present Atlantic scale provides $57.50 monthly for men in the engineer and deck departments and $40 for stewards. The Pacific Coast rates for these jobs are $62.50 and $50, respectively.

Victor A. Olander, former secretary-treasurer of the Seamen's Union, headed the Seamen's delegation and A. J. McCarthy, vice president of the International Mercantile Marine Company, represented the operators.

It was revealed by Mr. Olander that the vote to reject the 1935 contract was overwhelming. He said seamen were canvassed on their ships as they reached port from all parts of the world. The filing of the final report on the outcome of the balloting was postponed from the original date to secure as thorough a canvass as possible.

It was pointed out that the proposed new wage rates would be helpful in solving controversies in the intercoastal trade which have arisen in recent months on the Pacific Coast because of the fact the crews on ships from Atlantic ports were paid lower wages than those on the Pacific Coast.

GRAND RAPIDS ORGANIZATION DRIVE MAKES FINE PROGRESS

Grand Rapids, Mich. (AFLNS).—A labor organization campaign such as this city has never before witnessed is now under way, with practical results already reported that assure outstanding success.

The campaign, in the interest of all unions, all crafts and all wage earners, is in charge of a committee directed by Thomas N. Taylor, an A. F. of L. organizer, and is following A. F. of L. lines. Metal trades, building trades, printing trades and miscellaneous trades are participating in the campaign. While no figures have been announced so far, it is known that many new members have joined the ranks of organized labor and several local unions have been materially strengthened.

CARPENTERS' BROTHERHOOD ISSUES 12 NEW CHARTERS

Indianapolis, Ind. (AFLNS).—It is announced here that, during the past month, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America has issued 12 new charters to local unions, indicating a substantial growth, particularly for the winter season.

The charters were issued to locals in Manistique, Mich.; Woodward, Okla.; Vancouver, B. C., Canada; South Sioux City, Neb.; Alva, Okla.; Arkansas City, Ark.; Sheffield, Ala.; Humboldt, Tenn.; Richlands, Va.; Weatherford, Okla.; Macon, Ga., and Piedmont, Ala.